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REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action mailed February 24, 2006, and in view of the Advisory Action mailed May 8, 2006, the Assignee submits the enclosed amendments and remarks with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). The Advisory Action and Office Action objected to claims 17, 27, and 32 as depending on an underlying rejected base claim, but otherwise containing allowable subject-matter. The Advisory Action indicated that the rejection of claims 1-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph was overcome. Moreover, the Advisory Action indicated that the rejection of claims 1-16, 18-26, 28-31, and 33-53 as being obvious was being maintained as outlined in the February 24, 2006 Office Action.

By the present amendment, independent claims 1, 9, 18, 28, 33, 36, 39, 42, 45, and 48 have been amended. Claims 1-53 are still pending in the present application. The present amendment and response is believed to traverse all of the Office Action rejections for at least the reasons presented in the remarks below.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-16, 18-26, 28-31, AND 33-53 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A)

The Advisory Action maintained the rejection outlined in the February 24, 2006 Office Action. In particular, that Office Action rejected claims 1-16, 18-26, 28-31, and 33-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,073,140 to *Morgan* (hereinafter '140 *Morgan*') in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,766,327 to *Morgan* (hereinafter '327 *Morgan*'). The Office Action stated that '140 *Morgan* did not disclose the element "wherein the UCID is different from the UUID, and the UCID is capable of being distributed to a customer and the UUID is capable of being maintained without disclosure to the customer." Page 6, lines 1-4.

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Claim 1 and the other independent claims have been amended to clarify that “the UCID is capable of being distributed to a single customer.”

The Advisory Action states that “Morgan ‘140 teaches a join table (i.e. conversion table) that allows for direct transfer of data note abstract, column 5 line 58 through column 6, line 3, and column 9 lines 44-54.” See Advisory Action, Page 2. ‘140 *Morgan* describes the process for a “direct table join” as follows:

As an alternative to batch-mode operation, the data vendor may establish a direct table join between the data vendor’s database and the data customer’s database. This table join would preferably be performed via a global communications network such as the Internet, but any other method of direct communication could be used as well. Using a direct table join, the requirement of sending a separate list of keys to the data vendor is eliminated. Once the data vendor receives the completed form from the data customer, it can transfer the requested update or enhancement data directly into the data customer’s database along the table joins.

Col. 5, line 65 – Col. 6, line 3 (underlining supplied)

As stated by ‘140 *Morgan*, “[u]sing a direct table join, the requirement of sending a separate list of keys to the data vendor is eliminated.” This aspect of a direct table join contrasts sharply with the Applicants’ claimed invention of claim 1, which includes the elements, “assigning a unique customer number (“UCID”) for each record entry contained in the customer file, wherein the UCID is different from the UUID, and the UCID is distributed to a single customer and the UUID is maintained without disclosure to the customer”, and “associating each UCID with a corresponding UUID via a conversion table” (underlining supplied). The use of a UCID distributed or sent to a single customer in the claimed invention is dissimilar to a direct table join described by ‘140 *Morgan*, which eliminates the requirement

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of sending data or a list of keys to any data vendor. For at least the above reasons, '140 *Morgan* does not teach or suggest all of the elements of the Applicants' claimed invention.

'327 *Morgan* is also different from the Applicants' claimed invention. '327 *Morgan* relates to providing persistent links encoded with a client-specific key before issuing the links externally to a client. The client-specific key is then used to decode a particular client's links when an information services provider accesses the particular client's data. '327 *Morgan* relies upon the use of persistent links encoded a client-specific key, encoding/decoding algorithms, and a stored algorithm/look up table to encode and decode links and to permit sharing of information between an information services provider and its client.

The use of persistent links encoded with a client-specific key, encoding/decoding algorithms, a stored algorithm/look up table, and relatively complex encoding and decoding-type processing by '327 *Morgan* is very different from the Applicants' claimed invention which uses a conversion table (CT) to associate a UUID with a UCID. For example, '327 *Morgan* assigns each unique client a particular encoding algorithm including an algorithm identifier and an encoding key. Col. 11, lines 44-47. The algorithm identifier and an encoding key are then stored in an algorithm/look up table. Col. 11, lines 48-50. A persistent link can be encoded by applying a particular encoding algorithm corresponding to the algorithm identifier, and then the encoding algorithm is applied to the link using the encoding key to obtain a corresponding encoded link. Col. 11, lines 59 – Col. 12, lines 5. A decoding procedure using the encoded link, a decoding algorithm, and the algorithm/key look-up table must then be performed by '327 *Morgan* to obtain a decoded link. Col. 12, lines 6-29.

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By contrast, the Applicants' claimed invention does not require the use of relatively complex encoding/decoding algorithms to associate a UUID with a UCID. Instead, the Applicants' claimed invention uses a conversion table (CT) which can provide mapping, linking, associating, or correlating functionality to associate a UUID and UCID. See Specification, p. 8, lines 12-15; and Figure 4. As described by at least one example in the Specification, use of a conversion table (CT) with a corresponding UCID and UUID during a transfer of information can permit a user to easily identify and update previously stored data as needed. See Specification, p. 8, lines 18-22. Therefore, use of a conversion table (CT) to determine a relationship between a UUID and corresponding UCID is therefore different than using persistent links encoded with a client-specific key, encoding/decoding algorithms, and a stored algorithm/look up table as described by '327 Morgan.

For at least the above reasons, the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention, and therefore, the claimed invention should be allowable over the cited references.

III. THE OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 17, 27, AND 32

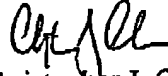
The Office Action indicates claims 17, 27, and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 17, 27, and 32 are ultimately dependent from at least one of the above independent claims for which arguments of patentability have already been advanced above. Therefore, dependent claims 17, 27, and 32 should be allowable over the cited references, and an allowance of such claims should be provided.

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CONCLUSION

Claims 1-53 are pending in the application. The Office Action rejections have been traversed by the present response. Claims 1-53 are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney of record at (404) 815-6048 if such contact will facilitate a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-53. If any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



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